

Orwell - New Orleans

J.J. accumulation records appeals - Herman S. De Brays

The attached New Orleans Central file number 195 of what I believe is 62-10,000 (the number is unclear) refers to a record I have not seen, the transcript of an authorizing FBI interview with the minor witness that Sam Jean Bell De Brays. Carlson has had been at 11 in New Orleans and in among those of special agents who were sent to Dallas.

Walter and I are confident false charges had been made against De Brays by a man with whom he'd had some problems years earlier, Ernest Kern. In essence Kern claimed to have seen De Brays and Oswald together.

All FBI part of the information is a brief story of film that was hardly more than a formal denial, no more than was necessary to avoid allegations of unfairness against FBI.

I believe that any Dallas version is an historically important record because of the widespread attention given to the Kern allegation and because he was also a witness before the Schlesinger subcommittee of the Church committee. (I was unsuccessful in my efforts to get Kern to recall that he had given me a different version of a similar story in which De Brays did not figure. I believe I also indicated to Senator Schlesinger that the story had become mythology and was baseless.)

If Kern was a loose, uncommitted witness then there is added historical importance to the record and added reason for the full transcript of the interview to be available in fairness to De Brays and his family. Even if only at some distant future date.